

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05

TAR-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 IO-10 /091 W

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P R 101805Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8448

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 431

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR YEUTTER/BELL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: LONDON TALKS ON GRAIN RESERVES

REFS: A) EC BRUSSELS 1246

B) STATE 50015

1. SUMMARY: ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER GRAIN TALKS IN LONDON WITH EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS. IT WAS TENTATIVELY AGREED, IF SCHEDULES COULD BE ARRANGED, TO HAVE ANOTHER HIGH-LEVEL BILATERAL EXCHANGE IN BRUSSELS DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 17, PRIOR TO THE MEETING OF THE TNC AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AT GENEVA THE WEEK OF MARCH 24. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MARCH 8 ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS EXPLAINED THE U.S. VIEW ON GRAIN RESERVES DISCUSSIONS TO A GROUP OF COMMISSION OFFICIALS: DIRECTOR GENERAL WELLENSTEIN, DEPUTIES DIRECTOR GENERAL HIJZEN AND PIZZUTI, AND DIVISION CHIEF MALVE. HE ARGUED THAT DISCUSSIONS

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ON GRAINS IN LONDON WOULD INCLUDE THE RUSSIANS,

WOULD ALLOW FOR RAPID PROGRESS IN SETTING UP A RESERVES SYSTEM, AND WOULD HELP MEET LDC PRESSURES. CREATION OF A GRAINS GROUP IN THE GENEVA DISCUSSIONS WHILE LONDON TALKS WERE GOING ON COULD CONFUSE MATTERS AND DELAY PROGRESS. HE RECOGNIZED THAT CONSIDERATION WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO HOW TO DEAL WITH THE TRADE COMPONENT.

3. COMMISSION OFFICIALS RESPONDED VERY MUCH ALONG THE LINES OF MALVE'S PREVIOUS COMMENTS REPORTED IN REFTEL A. THEY THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO TREAT ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THE GRAINS QUESTION, E.G. RESERVES, WITHOUT TACKLING SIMULTANEOUSLY ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION. A DECISION SHOULD FIRST BE MADE AT GENEVA ON WHAT A POSSIBLE GRAINS ARRANGEMENT SHOULD COMPRISE. A DECISION SHOULD ALSO BE REACHED ABOUT HOW DISCUSSIONS IN LONDON WOULD TIE INTO THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS. THE COMMUNITY IS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS THAT ONCE IT HAS AGREED TO SOME ARRANGEMENT IN LONDON, IT NOT BE SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD THAT THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO REOPEN OTHER ASPECTS OF THE GRAINS QUESTION IN GENEVA. THESE PROBLEMS NEED TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE COMMUNITY BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TNC AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 24. AT THAT TIME, NEW ZEALAND WILL CALL FOR A SUB-GROUP ON DAIRY PRODUCTS, AUSTRALIA WILL CALL FOR A SUB-GROUP ON MEAT, AND IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID THE CREATION OF A SUB-GROUP ON GRAINS. A GRAINS SUB-GROUP COULD LAUNCH TALKS IN LONDON, BUT IT IS NOT FEASIBLE TO BEGIN COVER-SATIONS IN LONDON WITHOUT EXPLAINING TO THE NEGOTIATIONG PARTIES IN GENEVA WHAT IS GOING ON IN LONDON AND WHY.

4. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO HAVE ANOTHER BILATERAL CONSULTATION IN BRUSSELS THE WEEK OF MARCH 17 WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A HIGH-LEVEL USDA PARTICIPANT. THESE DISCUSSION COULD ADDRESS TWO POINTS: (A) A SCENARIO ON HOW TO PHASE THE WORK BETWEEN LONDON AND GENEVA, AND (B) THE ELEMENTS THAT SHOULD BE CONTAINED IN A GRAINS ARRANGEMENT. THE COMMUNITY OFFICIALS AGREED TO THE DESIRABILITY OF A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETING, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATE PEOPLE.

5. THIS CABLE WAS PREPARED SUBSEQUENT TO ENDERS'S DEPARTURE. GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GRAINS, STOCKPILES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ECBRU02076
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750083-0741
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750367/aaaacilr.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 EC BRUSSELS 1246
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LONDON TALKS ON GRAIN RESERVES
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC, (ENDERS, THOMAS O)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006